

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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UNCLAS TOKYO 1164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: ILO ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN

REF: STATE 003255

1. SUMMARY: SINCE JAPAN IS A DONOR, NOT A RECIPIENT, ILO ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN JAPAN ARE MINOR. ILO'S ACTIVITIES ARE, HOWEVER, A SUBJECT OF ABIDING INTEREST TO LABOR, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT CIRCLES IN JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPAN IS DONOR COUNTRY (CONTRIBUTING ROUGHLY 8 PERCENT OF ILO ANNUAL BUDGET) AND IS NOT RECIPIENT OF ANY ILO ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES. SIGNIFICANT ILO ACTIVITIES DO TAKE PLACE IN JAPAN, HOWEVER, AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THEM MAY BE USEFUL IN FORMING AN OVERALL PICTURE OF ILO FUNCTIONS IN EA.

3. ILO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IS ONLY ILO PROGRAM ACTIVITY IN JAPAN. FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS SPEND UP TO ONE YEAR IN JAPAN ON STUDY-ORIENTED PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) AND MINISTRY OF LABOR. WHILE PROGRAM GENERALLY CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL, ITS SIZE AND GROWTH POTENTIAL (10 OR 11 PARTICIPANTS PLANNED FOR 1977) HAVE BEEN LIMITED BY LANGUAGE BARRIERS

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--LACK OF JAPANESE-SPEAKING FELLOWS AND RELATIVE SCARCITY OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING JAPANESE IN LABOR FIELD. ON POSITIVE SIDE, PROGRAM HAS RECENTLY EXPANDED BEYOND ASIAN OLD COUNTRIES TO INCLUDE PARTICIPANTS FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS EGYPT AND YUGOSLAVIA. PROGRAM IS FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED DIRECTLY BY ILO HEADQUARTERS, NOT BY ILO BRANCH OFFICE IN TOKYO.

4. ILO HAS MAINTAINED BRANCH OFFICE IN TOKYO SINCE 1955 BUT IT DOES NOT CONDUCT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. MAIN FUNCTIONS OF ITS STAFF OF 13 JAPANESE NATIONALS ARE:

1) FACILITATIVE SERVICES TO FOREIGN GRANTEES IN JAPAN ON ILO FELLOWSHIPS; 2) RECRUITMENT OF JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS IN ILO PROGAMS, MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ABROAD; 3) LIAISON WITH GOJ AGENCIES ON MATTERS RELATED TO ILO PROGRAMS, AND 4) TRANSLATION OF LABOR-RELATED MATERIALS FROM JAPANESE TO ENGLISH FOR DISTRIBUTION BY ILO HEADQUARTERS AND TRANSLATION OF ILO PUBLICATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION IN JAPAN.

5. EVEN THOUGH ILO'S ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN ARE QUITE MODEST, FOR THE JAPANESE THE ILO HAS BEEN AND REMAINS AN OBJECT OF SUBSTANTIAL ATTENTION. PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS IN JAPAN LOOK UPON THE ILO AS A VALUABLE INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN THEIR CAMPAIGN TO WIN RIGHT TO STRIKE FOR THEIR MEMBERS. THE GOJ WATCHES ALL ILO ACTIVITIES CAREFULLY AND PARTICIPATES WITH MANAGEMENT AND LABOR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PARTIALLY GOVERNMENT-FUNDED JAPAN ILO ASSOCIATION, AN ACTIVE, PRIVATE COMMISSION FOUNDED SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO PROMOTE INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THE ILO IN JAPAN.
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